



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

February 22, 2011

Senator Joan Hartley, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee
Representative Stephan Dargan, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee
Public Safety Committee Members

Subject: **SENATE BILL #1016**

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association has some concerns with **Senate Bill #1016, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY RESPONDER TRAINING**, as proposed.

Our Association represents approximately **27,000** career and volunteer firefighters in the State of Connecticut.

In these challenging times, all State agencies respond that they realize the State's fiscal problems, and the need for consolidation of agencies, BUT..... This Association is not much different.

Our concern with the consolidation proposed within this bill is that it takes two separate, totally different disciplines and combines them. Our disciplines are different, our constituencies are different, training regimens are different. The additional concern is that this proposal virtually eliminates one of the agencies; the Commission on Fire Prevention & Control. The bill eliminates the State Fire Administrator and the State Fire Administration. It would appear that the administration of the other agency remains intact. This would appear to be more of a takeover rather than a consolidation.

As stated previously, the Connecticut State Firefighters Association could be comfortable with this consolidation with some adjustments. First and foremost, we would suggest that for this consolidation to work efficiently there must be equal partners within both agencies. We would support the proposal put forth, under separate testimony, to this committee by the **JOINT COUNCIL OF CONNECTICUT FIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**. We feel that this would be a far more logical solution to any consolidation of these two agencies.

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association would be happy to assist with any attempts at a more equitable solution to this consolidation plan.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,


Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative
Connecticut State Firefighters Association